



How to Write a Bill: Kentucky Youth Assembly Style

This is an introduction to the bill writing process for KYA. Invite your Regional Director to help lead the workshop!

Guidelines

- The proposed legislation must be enforceable on the state level
- It should be important to your delegation
- It should solve a problem
- The idea can be new or can repeal a current piece of legislation

Brainstorm Ideas

- Break up into groups
- Make a list of issues you know about in Kentucky – some may be obvious but write it down anyway
- Share your group's ideas with your delegation
- Pick the best ideas and start researching

Where else can we find ideas?

- Local Newspapers
 - Louisville Courier Journal
 - Lexington-Herald Leader
 - Kentucky Enquirer
- Speak to local business-people in your community
- Reach out to your state representatives and senators
- Ask you parents and neighbors

Once you have an idea, make sure it meets the following criteria:

- Creativity – *is your proposed solution a fresh idea?*
- Feasibility – *is the idea possible, considering factors like cost and time?*
- Debatable – *will your idea generate thoughtful debate at conference?*
- Relevance/Importance to Kentucky – *how would your bill help Kentucky?*

Organizing Your Bill

- Title
- Enacting Clause
- Body – Divided into sections
 - The body of you bill should contain answers to the following questions, at least:
 - How much will this cost and how will the state pay for it?
 - How will this law be implemented?
 - What state department will monitor this law?
 - Consequences for violating the law?
 - When will this law go into effect?